



IHR UPDATE

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Sunic, Weber and Smith Address Spirited IHR Meeting



Bradley Smith



Tom Sunic



Mark Weber

AN UPBEAT SPIRIT of solidarity and enthusiasm marked the IHR meeting on Saturday evening, March 24, 2007, in Irvine, California. The three speakers – Tomislav Sunic, Mark Weber and Bradley Smith – were in good form, not only in delivering their own talks, but also during the lively question and answer sessions. IHR director Weber opened the meeting and introduced the other speakers.

Bradley Smith – author, playwright, veteran free speech activist, and director of the Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust (CODOH) – reported

on his role in the much-publicized Holocaust conference in Iran. He recounted anecdotes from the December meeting, and conference, and shared impressions of Iran's sprawling capital city.

Tomislav (Tom) Sunic, who spoke next, is a scholar, author, former diplomat, and former professor of political science in the US. He currently lives with his family in Croatia. His address was a critical look at modern liberal democratic societies in which he reviewed social-political challenges of present-day Europe and the United States.

attendees.

Mark Weber in his address spoke about the Zionist-Israeli push for war with Iran, the Jewish-Zionist role in dictating American foreign policy, and the pressing task of informing and educating the public. (The full text of Weber's address, "Behind the Iran Crisis: The Israel Lobby's Campaign for War," is posted on the IHR website.)

In his review of the campaign for war against Iran, he cited recent remarks by high-level US and Israeli officials. The so-called Iran crisis is bogus, he said, and "every bit as phony as the one manufactured to provide a pretext for war against Iraq."

"Once again," said Weber, "we are told that another country that Israel regards as an adversary is a grave threat to peace. Once again our politicians and a compliant media present a barrage of sensational and frightening propaganda claims – claims remarkably similar to those we heard in 2002 and 2003, and from the same Israel-friendly crowd." A war against Iran, he stressed, "would

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Dr. Sunic developed points made in his new book, *Homo americanus: Child of the Postmodern Age*, a thoughtful critique of American society and its impact around the world. Sales of the just-published book were brisk, and Sunic autographed copies purchased by

New Book Details Mass Killings and Brutal Mistreatment of Germans at the End of World War Two

Germany's defeat in May 1945, and the end of World War II in Europe, did not bring an end to death and suffering for the vanquished German people. Instead the victorious Allies ushered in a horrible new era that, in many ways, was worse than the destruction wrought by war.

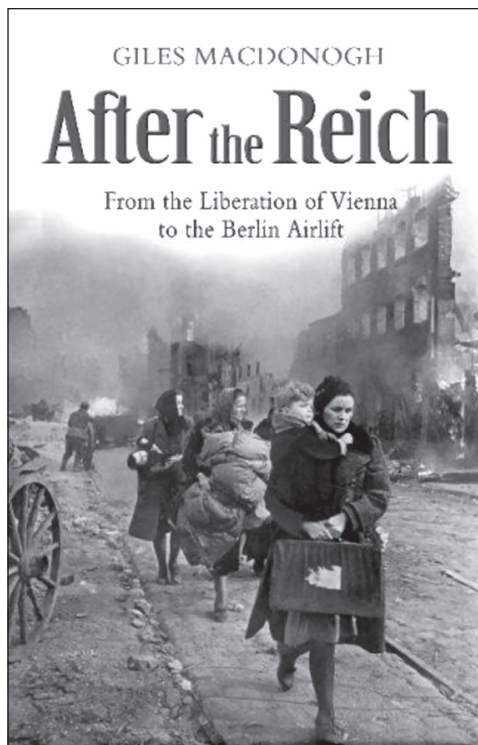
In a sobering and courageous new book, *After the Reich: From the Liberation of Vienna to the Berlin Airlift*, British historian Giles MacDonogh details how the ruined and prostrate Reich (including Austria) was systematically raped and robbed, and how many Germans who survived the war were either killed in cold blood or deliberately left to die of disease, cold, malnutrition or starvation.

Many people take the view that, given the wartime misdeeds of the Nazis, some degree of vengeful violence against the defeated Germans was inevitable and perhaps justified. A common response to reports of Allied atrocities is to say that the Germans "deserved what they got." But as MacDonogh establishes, the appalling cruelties inflicted on the totally prostrate German people went far beyond that.

His best estimate is that some three million Germans, military and civilians, died unnecessarily after the official end of hostilities.

A million of these were men who were being held as prisoners of war, most of whom died in Soviet captivity. (Of the 90,000 Germans who surrendered at Stalingrad, for example, only 5,000 ever returned to their homeland.) Less well known is the story of the many thousands of German prisoners who died in American and British captivity, most infamously in horrid holding camps along the Rhine river, with no shelter and very little food. Others, more fortunate, toiled as slave labor in Allied countries, often for years.

Most of the two million German civilians who perished after the end of the war were women, children and elderly



— victims of disease, cold, hunger, suicide, and mass murder.

Apart from the wide-scale rape of millions of German girls and women in the Soviet occupation zones, perhaps the most shocking outrage recorded by MacDonogh is the slaughter of a quarter of a million Sudeten Germans by their vengeful Czech compatriots. The wretched survivors of this ethnic cleansing were pitched across the border, never to return to their homes. There were similar scenes of death and dispossession in Pomerania, Silesia and East Prussia as the age-old German communities of those provinces were likewise brutally expunged.

We are ceaselessly reminded of the Third Reich's wartime concentration camps. But few Americans are aware that such infamous camps as Dachau, Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen and Auschwitz stayed in business after the end of the war, only now packed

with German captives, many of whom perished miserably

The vengeful plan by US Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau to turn defeated Germany into an impoverished "pastoral" country, stripped of modern industry, is recounted by MacDonogh, as well as other genocidal schemes to starve, sterilize or deport the population of what was left of the bombed-out cities.

It wasn't an awakening of humanitarian concern that prompted a change in American and British attitudes toward the defeated Germans. The shift in post-war policy was based on fear of Soviet Russian expansion, and prompted a calculated appeal to the German public to support the new anti-Soviet policy of the US and Britain.

MacDonogh's important book is an antidote to the simplistic but enduring propaganda portrait of World War II as a clash between Good and Evil, and debunks the widely accepted image of benevolent Allied treatment of defeated Germany.

This 615-page volume is much more than a gruesome chronicle of death and



human suffering. Enhanced with moving anecdotes, it also provides historical context and perspective. It is probably the best work available in English on this shameful chapter of twentieth century history.

Earnings of American Men Are Declining

American men in their 30s are earning less than their fathers' gener-



ation did at the same age, challenging a long-held belief that each generation will be better off than the one that preceded it, according to a detailed study released in May 2007.

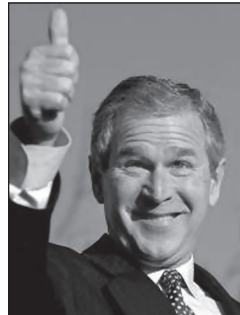
Relying on Census Bureau figures, the study's authors found that after adjusting for inflation, men in their 30s in 2004 had a median income of about \$35,000 per year, for a twelve percent drop compared with \$40,000 per year for men in the same age group in 1974. That stood in stark contrast to men in their 30s in 1994, who earned five percent more than their fathers did. Outsourcing and the demise of higher-paying manufacturing jobs have contributed to the stagnation in men's incomes, the study's authors say.

The report, the first in an ongoing

18-month study on economic mobility in the United States, also revealed that the income growth of the median American household is declining. The study was produced jointly by several politically diverse think tanks, including the Pew Charitable Trusts, the American Enterprise Institute, the Brookings Institute, the Heritage Foundation and the Urban Institute. It looked at income levels of American men in their 30s, which can be a good indicator of lifetime income.

Nation on Wrong Track, Say Two-Thirds of Americans

Two out of three Americans think the country is on the wrong track, according to an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll released in May 2007. Only 22 percent of Americans think the country is moving in the right direction, while 66 percent think it's on the wrong track, the poll of 1004 adults taken April 20-23 showed. An NBC/WSJ poll taken in March 2007 showed that 58 percent



saw the country heading down the wrong track, and 25 percent saw it moving in the right direction.

French Politician Punished for Gas Chamber Remarks

A French political figure was given a three-month suspended prison sentence for having questioned the use of gas chambers to kill Jews during World War II. Bruno Gollnisch, deputy leader of the National Front party, and a member of the European Parliament, was convicted on Jan. 18, 2007, by a court in Lyon of violating France's "Fabius-Gayssot" law because of remarks he made during a press conference in October 2004. "I do not question the existence of concentration camps but historians could discuss the number of deaths. As to the existence of gas chambers, it is up to historians to speak their minds," he said at the time. In addition to the suspended prison sentence, Gollnisch was fined 5,000 euros and ordered to pay 55,000 euros in damages to various plaintiffs. He has appealed the sentence.



IHR Meeting

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serve only Israeli and Zionist interests. For everyone else, war against Iran would be a catastrophe."

US policy in the Middle East, Weber said, is based on a "blatant double standard." "While Washington threatens war against Iran for developing a nuclear program, it sanctions Israel's vast arsenal of nuclear weapons, and seemingly has no problem with a nuclear-armed China, Pakistan, Russia

and India."

Weber spoke about the positive impact of the new book by former president Jimmy Carter, *Palestine Peace Not Apartheid*, and the "Israel Lobby" paper issued last year by professors Stephen Walt and John Mearsheimer. That important paper, said Weber, "is much more than a trenchant analysis or persuasive critique of a particular lobby. It is implicitly a damning indictment of the American social-political system."

As he has in other talks and interviews in recent years, Weber empha-

sized the dangerous impact of Jewish-Zionist power. "The Jewish-Zionist grip on our nation," he said, "is an expression of a profound and deeply rooted problem ... Such a lobby or power... could only gain such a hold on the governmental machinery of a society that is fundamentally sick and corrupt." Now, concluded Weber, "we are engaged in a great, global struggle ... a struggle that calls all of us – across the country and around the world – who share a sense of responsibility for the future of our nation, of the world, and of humankind."

Irving Serves 13 Months in Prison for 'Holocaust Denial'

On December 21, 2006, David Irving was released from an Austrian prison after having served 13 months of a three year sentence imposed for the "crime" – committed 16 (!) years earlier – of having referred in a talk to "mythical" gas chambers in Auschwitz.



The British historian – author of numerous books on military history and World War II, including several international bestsellers – was arrested on November 11, 2005, by eight Austrian "Staatspolizei" officers during a visit to the country to address a meeting of university students in Vienna. He was seized on the basis of a warrant issued in November 1989 charging him with violating a law imposed in 1945, when the country was under Allied occupation.

Irving was held until his trial on February 20, 2006, when a court in Vienna sentenced him to three years in prison for his "denial" remarks. Newspapers, political leaders and intellectuals around the world immediately denounced the surprisingly harsh sentence, as well as the laws under which he and other "deniers" have been imprisoned and fined.

During his months behind bars, Irving devoted himself to history writing, to reading, to his correspondence, and to a memoir of his prison ordeal. He was released on probation in December after a favorable ruling by an appeals court.

In the months since his release,

Irving has been busy and productive. In March, for example, he visited Hungary, where he addressed a rally of 10,000 in Budapest.

In May 2007 the 69-year-old historian visited Poland, where he toured the site of Hitler's wartime "Wolf's Lair" headquarters. On May 18 he was ordered to shut down his stand at the Warsaw International Book Fair, and a scheduled lecture in the Polish capital on the political problems of writing modern history was abruptly cancelled.

Ernst Zundel Sentenced to Five Years in Prison for 'Denial'

At the conclusion of a trial that received wide media coverage, a court in Mannheim, Germany, on February 15, 2007, sentenced Ernst Zundel to five years imprisonment for "popular incitement" remarks that violate the country's ban against "Holocaust denial."

Zundel – a German-born publicist, graphic artist and publisher – has been held behind bars for more than four years now. He is the most prominent political prisoner and "prisoner of conscience" in the western world today. His ordeal, and the patently unjust legal measures under which he's been held, have prompted worldwide condemnation. Even in Germany, growing numbers of people regard his treatment as unjust and hypocritical.

Zundel was arrested on February 5, 2003, at the home in rural eastern Tennessee where he had been living quietly with his wife, Ingrid Rimland.

He was seized on the pretext that he had missed an interview date with US immigration authorities, even though he had entered the US legally, was married to a US citizen, had no criminal record, and was acting diligently, and in full accord with the law, to secure status as a permanent legal resident.

After being held for two weeks, he was deported to Canada. For two years – from mid-February 2003 to March 2005 – he was held in solitary confinement in Canada as a supposed threat to "national security." His arrest and detention generated wide media attention. A few Canadian newspapers, including Toronto's prestigious *Globe and Mail*, and several independent analysts, acknowledged the injustice of his incarceration on an empty pretext.

After his deportation to Germany on March 1, 2005, he was charged with inciting "hatred" by having written or distributed texts that "approve, deny or play down" genocidal actions carried out by Germany's wartime regime, and which "denigrate the memory of the [Jewish] dead." The first

and foremost of the writings cited in the indictment are texts posted on the "Zundelsite" (www.zundelsite.org), which is registered and maintained by his wife in the United States, where all such writings are entirely legal.

Zundel's trial in Germany began on November 8, 2005, and dragged on for more than four months.

In his prison cell, Zundel closely follows international news and trends, writes letters, and reads. His diet and living conditions, he reports, are tolerable, and certainly better than they were during his incarceration in Canada.



Letters reach him at: Ernst Zündel, JVA Mannheim, Herzogenrieder Str. 111, D - 68169 Mannheim, Germany.

In spite of the privations and injustices he has suffered, the 68-year-old Zündel maintains his characteristically upbeat outlook. In a letter to his wife penned shortly before his sentencing, he wrote:

“Things are looking up! That may seem like gallows humour in my situation – a day or two away from being convicted to a prison term worse than violent rapists, dope pushers, and child molesters are given. Ingrid, rest assured – the outcry caused by the severity of the sentence will reverberate around the world and keep this case and the issues NOT dealt with squarely on the table. These people do not understand the dynamics at work. They are, like so many Germans, still victims of their induced-by-indoctrination *Weltbild* [world-view], all the while accusing me and [my attorneys] of the most vile intentions. Sometimes I think I’m in a time warp...”

Germar Rudolf Sentenced to 30 Months Imprisonment

On March 15, 2007, at the conclusion of a four-month trial, a court in Mannheim sentenced Germar Rudolf – a 42-year-old certified chemist, author and publisher – to two and a half years imprisonment for violating Germany’s law against “Holocaust denial.”

Born in Germany in 1964, Rudolf began an investigation of the “gas chamber” issue while enrolled in a doctoral program at the prestigious Max Planck Institute for Solid State Physics. The young chemist carried out a forensic examination of the alleged gas chambers at Auschwitz-Birkenau and concluded for a variety of technical reasons that they could

not have been used for executions.

After the publication in 1993 of his findings, he was dismissed from the institute, and a court in Stuttgart ruled that his report “denies the systematic mass murder of the Jewish population in gas chambers,” and therefore constitutes “popular incitement,” “incitement to racial hatred,” and “defamation.”

In 1996 he was sentenced to 14 months in prison. Rather than serve the sentence, he fled the country, first to England and then to the United States. While in the US he ran a publishing firm that issued an impressive array of scholarly revisionist titles, and he oversaw the publication of two revisionist periodicals, one in German and one in English.

In October 2005 he was arrested in Chicago, and a few weeks later was deported to Germany, even though he and his American wife were parents of a young daughter. Upon arrival in Germany, he began serving his “original” 1996 prison sentence. His trial on “denial” crimes committed since 1996 began in Mannheim on November 14, 2006.

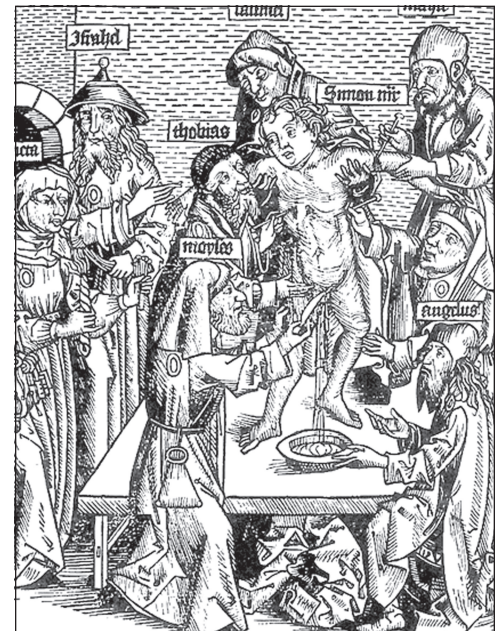
Letters reach him at: Germar Rudolf, JVA Mannheim, Herzogenriedstr. 111, D- 68169 Mannheim, Germany.

Jews Set US Policy in the Middle East, Say Many Europeans

Many Europeans believe that Jews dictate US policy in the Middle East, wield disproportionate global economic influence, and talk too much about the Holocaust, according to a report released in May 2007 by the Anti-Defamation League, a leading Jewish-Zionist association headquartered in New York. The survey of 2,714 people in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Poland found that 51 percent of respondents believed that Jews are more loyal to Israel than to the countries in which they live.

Israeli Historian Revives ‘Blood Libel’ Claims

An Israeli historian has revived the “blood libel” story in an historical study published in Italy in February 2007. Ariel Toaff, son of Rabbi



Depiction of alleged Jewish ‘ritual murder’ of a Christian boy, 1493

Elio Toaff, claims that there is some historic truth in the accusation that for centuries provided incentives for pogroms against Jews throughout Europe. Toaff’s tome, *Bloody Passovers: The Jews of Europe and Ritual Murders*, received high praise from another Jewish historian, Sergio Luzzatto, in an article in the prestigious Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*. Luzzatto describes Toaff’s work as a “magnificent book of history...”

Toaff holds that from the twelfth through the sixteenth centuries, crucifixions of Christian children by Jews really happened, prompting furiously punitive retaliations against entire Jewish communities. A report about Toaff’s book, and the controversy it prompted, “Historian Gives Credence to Blood Libel,” was published in the Israeli daily *Jerusalem Post*, Feb. 7 and 8, 2007.

Robert Faurisson in the News

On May 18, 2007, an Italian university closed one of its campuses for the day to prevent a planned lecture by Robert Faurisson, a 77-year-old retired French professor who contends that Jews were not killed in gas chambers in wartime German camps. He had been invited to lecture at the



University of Teramo, in central Italy, by Claudio Moffa, a professor of Asian and African history and director of a master's program in Middle East studies. Faurisson's plan to speak at a local hotel instead was also canceled after scuffles with protesters.

Three days later, on May 21, a Paris court rejected charges by Faurisson, who had sued former French Minister of Justice Robert Badinter for defamation after the latter accused him of falsifying history. The court ordered Faurisson to pay 5,000 euros to cover the cost of the proceedings.

On May 30, Dr. Faurisson appeared before the 11th section of the Court of Appeal in Paris regarding his conviction on October 6, 2006, for comments made by telephone and broadcast on Iran's "Sahar 1" satellite television channel. His "offense" was to have stated in an interview, apparently given and aired on Feb. 3,

2005, that there was no German state policy during the Second World War to physically exterminate Europe's Jews.

While acknowledging to the court the wartime suffering and persecution of the Jews, Faurisson rejected as propaganda the widely accepted view that there was an official German wartime program of mass extermination. The court accepted the plea of the public prosecutor, who had asked that Faurisson's arguments be rejected.

Robert Faurisson is a prominent

skeptic of the "official" Holocaust story. In numerous articles, including two published in the Paris daily *Le Monde*, and in several books and many lectures, he has presented his view that there is no real evidence, either material or documentary, for claims of mass killings in gas chambers. He has repeatedly been found guilty by French courts for violating the country's "Fabius-Gayssot" law, which prohibits "Holocaust denial" by making it illegal to dispute "crimes against humanity" as defined by the Nuremberg Tribunal of 1945-46.

IHR Website: Sustained Impact

Viewership of the IHR website – www.ihr.org – remains strong. About 5,600 persons visit the site each day – many more than visit the sites of more prominent and better funded organizations.

The IHR website's eye-catching home page features a round-up of current news and commentary items, updated several times a week, and periodic reports on the IHR's work and impact. The site is also a gateway to an immense library of articles, essays and reviews on history and current affairs. New material is continually

being added to the site. Through its "Audio Archive" section many thousands of visitors listen to interviews and lectures.

Articles, reviews and essays from the IHR website are regularly sent through the internet to many thousands around the world, and are downloaded and printed out for reading and distribution to others. IHR items are often translated into foreign languages for even wider circulation.

Each day articles and reviews posted on the IHR website are read by many more people than ever saw them in their original, printed form, such as in the IHR's *Journal of Historical Review*.



IHR News and Comment

The Institute's "IHR News & Comment" e-mail service continues to grow, attracting ever more people who appreciate these informative, timely roundups of news, analysis and commentary. Subscribers to this free public service receive roundups at least twice weekly. To subscribe, send a note to news@ihr.org, with "Subscribe" in the subject line.

Robust Media Outreach

IN RECENT MONTHS the IHR has kept up its important media outreach work, including radio and television appearances by director Mark Weber that reached hundreds of thousands of people in the US and overseas, as well as through the internet. Some highlights:

Hannity & Colmes

On the evening of Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2006, Weber appeared by television hook-up as a guest on the Hannity & Colmes show, one of the country's most widely viewed public affairs debate shows. It is broadcast nationwide on the Fox News cable television network. Before Weber's appearance, viewers were shown a portion of a video presentation by him about how the Holocaust remembrance campaign serves Jewish-Zionist interests. During his appearance, co-hosts Sean Hannity and Alan Colmes hurled one accusation after another at Weber, and then



Alan Colmes and Mark Weber

repeatedly cut him off when he attempted to respond.

In the aftermath of the broadcast, Weber received e-mail messages from viewers across the country who wrote to express their disgust with the hosts' treatment of him. In a follow-up letter to Hannity and

Colmes, he wrote: "Over the years I have appeared many times on television and radio. But in all those many interviews and appearances, I don't think anyone has treated me with such blatant rudeness and bigotry as you did when I was your 'guest'... During my appearance, you hurled one accusation or loaded question after another, and then continually interrupted and cut me off when I spoke. You seemed to have no interest at all in understanding my point of view. Your only goal, apparently, was to denounce and verbally assault me."

Sean Hannity

The next day, Weber appeared as a guest on a half-hour segment of Hannity's radio show, which is broadcast nationwide on the ABC



David Horowitz and Sean Hannity

radio network. David Horowitz, a fervent apologist for Israel, was also a guest. Weber was more combative and confrontational than he had been the previous evening, but Hannity continually interrupted Weber and cut him off, while permitting Horowitz to carry on an arrogant, emotional tirade. (A good sample of Horowitz' "Israel first" outlook is his hateful essay about former president Carter, entitled "Jimmy Carter: Jew-Hater, Genocide-Enabler, Liar.")

The Political Cesspool

Mark Weber appeared on May 10 as a guest on "The Political Cesspool," a "populist" radio show hosted by James Edwards that airs on WLRM in Memphis, Tenn. During the stimu-



James Edwards

lating half-hour session, Weber and Edwards discussed the Jewish-Zionist grip on our media and political life, the importance of free speech in a free society, the legal oppression of scholars who express dissident views on the 'Holocaust' issue, and some encouraging trends.

Weber was invited back "by popular demand" for a second appearance on June 14. Among the topics tackled by Weber and Edwards in this fast-paced half-hour session was the immigration issue, the likelihood of war with Iran, the Iraq war, the Bush administration's policies, prospects for changes in US policy, the betrayal of the two major political parties, why Americans have not acted to remove their failed political leaders, and the mission of the IHR.

A 60-second IHR promotional advertisement was aired during this broadcast, as well as during every evening's broadcast over a four week period, and a "banner ad" for the IHR

was featured on the home page of the show's website.

Recordings in MP3 format of both "Political Cesspool" appearances by Weber can be heard through the IHR website's "Audio Archive" section.

Expresso

Portions of an interview with the IHR director about the role of Israel and the Jewish-Zionist lobby in the US invasion and occupation of Iraq were published in a leading Portuguese newspaper. This appeared in the Feb. 17, 2007, issue of *Expresso*, a serious and influential weekly.

IHR 'Holocaust Remembrance' Video

In a new IHR video presentation, "Holocaust Remembrance: Behind the Campaign," Weber delivers a crisp, factual and reasoned talk in



which he explains that the campaign is an expression of Jewish-Zionist power, and is meant to further Zionist and Israel interests. Thousands have viewed this 20-minute video, which is accessible online on YouTube and Google Video. It can also be viewed through the IHR website home page, and an audio recording can be heard through the IHR website's "Audio Archive" section.

Israeli Billionaire is Biggest Donor to US Politicians

Israeli billionaire and media mogul Haim Saban is at the top of the list of donors to political campaigns in the United States. Fox Network revealed in January 2007 that Saban has donated approximately \$13 million to various candidates. According to the report, Saban, a close friend of Bill and Hillary Clinton, is one of the major donors to the Democratic Party, though he has also contributed to Republican candidates, including president George Bush and California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. (Source: I. Eichner, "Israeli Billionaire Saban Biggest Donor to US Politicians," Ynet News [Israel], Jan. 23, 2007.)



'We Mustn't Forget Jewish Murderers'

"We mustn't forget that some of the greatest murderers of modern times were Jewish," says Sever Plocker, chief economics editor of Israel's largest circulation daily newspaper, *Yedioth Ahronoth*, in an essay, "Stalin's Jews," posted on the Ynet News website, Dec. 21, 2006. Plocker wrote:

"An Israeli student finishes high school without ever hearing the name Genrikh Yagoda, the greatest Jewish murderer of the 20th Century, the GPU's



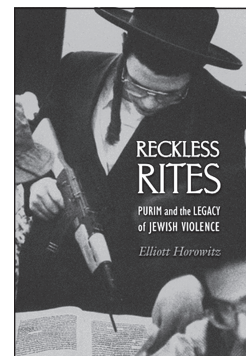
deputy commander and the founder and commander of the NKVD. Yagoda diligently implemented Stalin's collectivization orders and is responsible for the deaths of at least ten million people. His Jewish deputies established and managed the Gulag system...

"Many Jews sold their soul to the devil of the Communist revolution and have blood on their hands for eternity. We'll mention just one more: Leonid Reichman, head of the NKVD's special department and the organization's chief interrogator, who was a particularly cruel sadist.

"In 1934, according to published statistics, 38.5 percent of those holding the most senior posts in the Soviet security apparatuses were of Jewish origin... Turns out that Jews too, when they become captivated by messianic ideology, can become great murderers, among the greatest known by modern history... I find it unacceptable that a person will be considered a member of the Jewish people when he does great things, but not considered part of our people when he does amazingly despicable things."

Legacy of Jewish Violence Examined in New Book

Historical accounts of Jewish violence – particularly against Christians – have long been explosive material. Some historians have distorted these records for anti-Semitic purposes. Others have discounted, dismissed, or simply ignored the evidence, often for apologetic purposes. In the book, *Reckless Rites* (published recently by Princeton



University Press), Jewish historian Elliott Horowitz takes a fresh and forthright look at both the history of Jewish violence since late antiquity and the ways in which generations of historians have grappled with that history. In the process, he has written the most wide-ranging book on Jewish violence in any language, and the first to fully acknowledge and address the actual anti-Christian practices that became part of the playful, theatrical violence of the Jewish festival of Purim. Horowitz, a native of New York City, is Associate Professor of Jewish History at Bar-Ilan University in Israel.

The Holocaust as a Political Asset

Israel has turned “the Holocaust” into a “political asset,” says Amira Hass, an award-winning Israeli journalist and writer. In an April 2007 column in the influential Israeli daily *Haaretz*, she writes:



“Turning the Holocaust into a political asset serves Israel primarily in its fight against the Palestinians. When the Holocaust is on one side of the scale, along with the guilty (and rightly so) conscience of the West, the dispossession of the Palestinian people from their homeland in 1948 is minimized and blurred.

“The phrase ‘security for the Jews’ has been consecrated as an exclusive synonym for ‘the lessons of the Holocaust.’ It is what allows Israel to systematically discriminate against its Arab citizens... Turning the Holocaust into an asset allows

Israel to present all the methods of the Palestinian struggle (even the unarmed ones) as another link in the anti-Semitic chain whose culmination is Auschwitz...

“Separating the genocide of the Jewish people from the historical context of Nazism and from its aims of murder and subjugation, and its separation from the series of genocides perpetrated by the white man outside of Europe, has created a hierarchy of victims, at whose head we stand... Whoever criticizes Israel’s policies toward the Palestinians is denounced as an anti-Semite, if not a Holocaust denier... The transformation of the Holocaust into a political asset for use in the struggle against the Palestinians feed on those same stores of official cynicism, but it is part of the consensus.”

Not Oil, But Israel: Behind the Iraq War

Many Americans believe that the main motive behind the US invasion of Iraq was to gain control of that country’s oil. But American scholar Stephen Sniegoski cautions that, however plausible this “war for oil” view may be, it’s dangerously wrong. He explains why in a convincingly written essay, “War on Iraq: Not Oil But Israel,” posted Oct. 22, 2004, on “The Last Ditch” website. A few excerpts:

“The most popular argument of the critics of the Iraq war has been that the United States went to war for oil – that is, that the war had nothing to do with combating terrorism. Writing in the *Christian Science Monitor* before the war, Brendan O’Neill reported that ‘for many in the antiwar movement, the idea that the Bushies’ plan to invade the Gulf to get their greasy hands on more oil has become an article of faith, an unquestionable truth repeated like a mantra.’...

“That goes against what I regard



as the fundamental reason for the war: the war was led by neoconservatives and fought in the interests of Israel, at least as Likudniks envision Israel’s interests. It is all well-documented, though the neocons imply that Israeli interests coincide with those of the United States. But as I point out ... and this fact is on the public record, too – the original idea for the war was conceived in Israel. Moreover, the war achieved the goal hoped for by the Likudniks – destabilization of the Middle East.

“Although the neoconservative/Israel theory is not without its adherents, a number of factors explain the much greater popularity of the war-for-oil idea among critics of the war. For critics on the Left, the idea fits in with their notion of rapacious capitalism. Perhaps more importantly, their emphasis on the monetary motives of oil companies placed the war in a simple, good-bad framework. ‘The well-rehearsed oil argument,’ O’Neill observes, ‘attempts to make war a simple issue of good versus evil, with oil-greedy imperialists on one side and defenseless civilians on the other.’...

“An additional reason for the popularity of the war-for-oil argument is that any reference to Israel and the neoconservatives moves into the taboo area of Jewish power and invites the lethal charge of anti-Semitism. It is obviously far safer to demonize the oil industry than to make anything approaching a critical comment regarding individual Jews or Jewish interests, even if it is not a criticism of Jews as a group.”

The Pro-Israel Lobby and US Middle East Policy

James Petras is a former professor of sociology at Binghamton University, and a self-described "revolutionary and anti-imperialist." For decades he has been a leftist scholar and activist. He is also the author of many articles and several books, including a recent work, The Power of Israel in the United States. In a bold essay published in May, "The Pro-Israel Lobby and US Middle East Policy: The Score Card for 2007," he incisively examines the scope and impact of what he calls the "Zionist Power Configuration." He also scathingly rebukes the leftists and progressives who, out of fear or ignorance, decline to acknowledge the power and role of the pro-Israel lobby. Here are some excerpts from Petras' important essay:

To date the Zionist Power Configuration (ZPC) has consistently lined up its Congressional and White House backers and steamrolled domestic opposition in securing unconditional US backing for Israel's position in the Middle East.

Contrary to many war critics, especially those daring enough to attack the pro-war, neo-conservative and Zionist lobby, the US invasion of Iraq has not been a 'disaster', a 'debacle' or a 'defeat'.

The principle goal of the ZPC was the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, the destruction of the Iraqi state (especially its military and intelligence apparatus) and the societal infrastructure in order to eliminate a key backer of the Palestinian resistance to Israeli ethnic cleansing, a staunch backer of secular Arab nationalism in the Middle East and a strong challenger to Israel's attempt to assert hegemony in the region. The Zioncon-orchestrated war succeeded in each and every one of Israel's strategic objectives: the Palestinian resistance lost a powerful

financial and political backer.

As a consequence of the US destruction of the Iraqi state, Israel had a free hand in invading and devastating Palestine, especially Gaza, completing its ghetto-wall isolating Palestinian towns and villages from their markets and everyday activities, and extending its colonial settlements. US Zioncons in the Administration were able to scuttle any serious peace

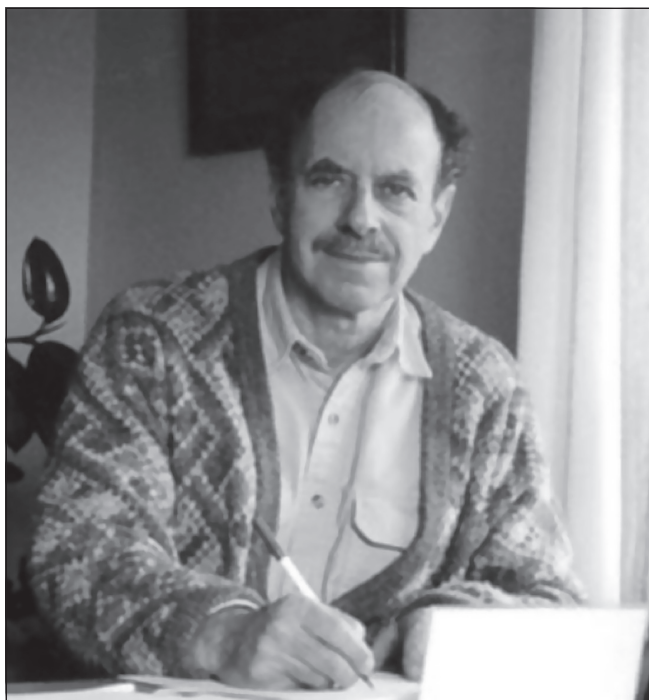
not prevented or, even more important, weakened the ZPC effort to set the US on a course toward new wars with the whole-hearted support of the majoritarian Democratic Party leadership.

With an eye toward campaign financial contributions, every single Democratic and Republican presidential candidate has pledged to unconditionally support Israeli interests, specific pledges to the ZPC-AIPAC included.

The Israeli Foreign Minister's direct intervention in the internal politics of the US, its blatant support for the Bush-Cheney war, and attack on the US public's anti-war sentiments, is reminiscent of the worst diplomatic intrusions by the US in the banana republics of Central America. Not a single Congress member dared to point this out, let alone oppose Israeli interference in US politics for fear of retaliation by the aroused mass of 'Israel Firsters'. Not a single 'leftist' or 'progressive' commentator noted that [Israeli foreign minister] Livni's attempt to

universalize Israel's hostility to Iran was nothing but a demagogic ploy. Extensive opinion surveys in Europe found absolute majorities rating Israel the most threatening and 'negative' country in the world, exceeding Iran, North Korea and Syria.

What passes as a US peace movement joins in chorus by blaming the oil industry for US Middle Eastern wars. There is a convenient coincidence of Israeli hawks and US doves in denouncing Big Oil, which is not such a coincidence if we remember that what passes for the US peace movement is inordinately influenced by prominent left Zionists, who combine criticism of 'Bush's war' with exclusion of any mention of Israel or

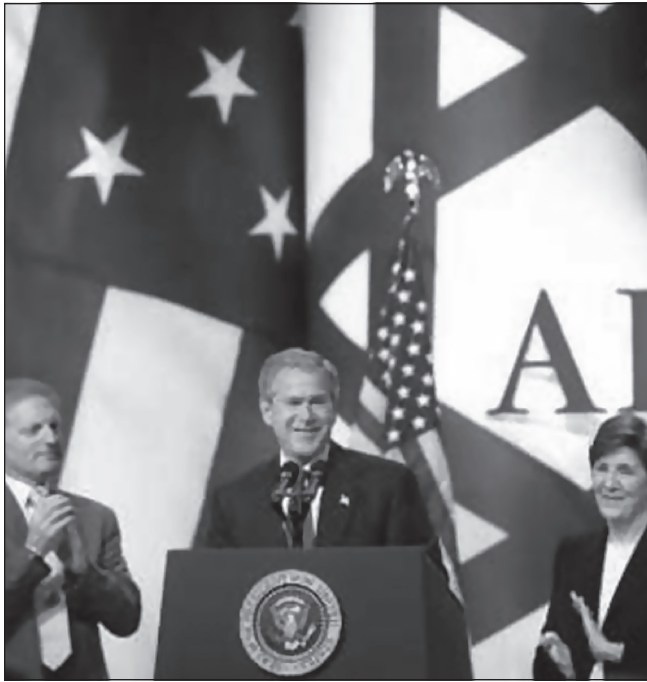


James Petras

negotiations, using their scripted 'war against terror' as a pretext.

The fact that the ZPC considers the Iraq war a 'done deal' in enhancing Israel's Middle East position and has now moved onto realizing Israel's next strategic objective, the destruction of Iran, has caused a visible rift with key officials in the White House who are still stuck in a losing war in Iraq.

Despite the fact that the US is bleeding white from the open wounds of the current war in Iraq, despite the fact that over three quarters of the US population is fed up with US involvement in Middle Eastern wars, this has



criticism of the war mongering Zionist lobby.

Major Democratic Party Presidential hopefuls have made an extraordinary effort to secure the Lobby's approval: All back Bush's 'military option' toward Iran; all support the annual \$2.4 billion dollar foreign aid package to Israel, despite Israel's \$25,000 per capita income and booming high tech industry.

The power of ZPC far exceeds the political lobbying of AIPAC. It extends to every realm of US cultural and intellectual life.

The theoretical and practical point is that the ZPC includes hundreds of local organizations and tens of thousands of individuals who take local initiatives in defending Israeli policy, its image and interests by trampling on the Constitutional and academic freedom of other Americans.

Manifestations of Zionist cultural authoritarianism is found at the local level and is closely linked with national campaigns to monopolize the entire discussion of US Middle East policy, and in particular, to exclude any criticism of Israel and the powerful role of the Zionist Lobby. That monopoly is most evident in any systematic study of the op-ed pages of the big circulation print media and the panels of

'experts' included in the major broadcast media.

The role of the pro-Israel repressive cultural-ideological hydra especially finds expression among the great majority of 'progressive' critics. 'Marxist' ideologues and 'peace' advocates deliberately and totally ignore the ZPC's influence in Congress, the Executive and in cultural life. Instead they repeatedly criticize Bush, Cheney, the Republicans and Democrats without mentioning their prime movers among the hundreds of thousands of Zi-

onist zealots and thousands of prime political donors. It is no wonder that the Zionist power configuration has greater power than any other lobby in Washington – they are the only power



group which has no opposition, no organized group willing to name them, let alone challenge and fight their stranglehold over Congress.

While one can debate whether the latest wave of US military escalation is the 'dying gasp' of a desperate empire, an irrational miscalculation by civilian militarists pursuing a military victory to bolster flagging domestic support, or a continuation of long-standing imperial policies in the region, the fact remains that the principle domestic backer of the re-escalation strategy is the ZPC. No other organized political-economic force consistently supports all US military

efforts in each of the zones of conflict. No other group backs US military action in countries where there is little or no oil. No other group totally ignores the 'overstretch' of the US military – the over-extension of US military forces in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa at the expense of providing military defense of other strategic imperial regions.

Only the ZPC, of all theoretically possible influential 'interest groups' has put all countries – Islamic or secular – critical of Israel on the US's military hit-list. Only the ZPC has orchestrated legislation to bar US financial institutions, pension funds and major oil and gas companies from lucrative investments in Arab and Persian markets.

The self-styled 'alternative' Jewish lobbies, which claim to speak for liberal Jews critical of Israel, maintain that AIPAC is merely 'one of many factors' influencing US policy, in a 'complex mosaic of changing circumstances'. Using the argument of 'complexities' and packaging the ZPC with 'numerous groups' they downplay or eliminate the essential role of the pro-Israel forces and join their mainstream brethren in smearing as 'anti-Semite' writers who put the ZPC at the center of their analysis of US policy toward Arab and Muslim countries.

The liberal Zionists have a disastrous impact on the peace movement, by deflecting its attention away from a prime mover of US military policy and thus giving the ZPC an uncontested and open terrain for continuing their dominance of US Middle East policy. The liberal Jewish lobby willfully ignores Israeli geopolitical interests, Israeli reliance on military rather than diplomatic measures, its pursuit of ethnic cleansing and the ZPC influence on US policy, in terms of the methods and strategies that Washington should pursue. They deliberately and continuously ignore the opposition of all the major oil companies to US sanctions against Iran.

Revisionist Historians Discredit Myths of Israel History

For some years now, a small group of Israeli historians has been dismantling some of the most popular and enduring myths about the origins and history of the Zionist state. In a lengthy piece in a recent issue of *The New Yorker*, ("The Seventh Day," May 28, 2007), editor David Remnick reports on the work, findings and growing impact of these dissident "new historians." "Rigorous revisionism is, of course, at the heart of historical practice, and to practice it in the face of a state-endorsed orthodoxy can require a considerable measure of gall, as well as craft," he writes. "Nowhere has revisionist history played a more crucial role in the political and moral consciousness of a nation than in Israel."

Perhaps the most important of the Israeli scholars who have been shedding light on inconvenient history has been Benny Morris. In his 1987

book, *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-1949*, he demolished a cherished Israeli notion: that the three-quarters of a million Palestinian Arabs who fled their vil-

ages during and after the war did so voluntarily and at the behest of their own leaders. Instead, Morris made clear, a large number of the Palestinians were expelled by Israeli military leaders, and many others fled out of fear after hearing about the killings and the destruction of homes in nearby villages.

Another prominent Israeli "revisionist" is Ilan Pappé, who has been a professor of history at the University of Haifa and, more recently, at



Ilan Pappé

the University of Exeter in Britain. He cites official records to show that the Zionist state came into being with blood on its hands, and that Israel was founded on lands forcibly seized from its Palestinians whose ancestors had lived there for centuries. To create a Zionist homeland for Jews, the native non-Jews were ethnically cleansed and slaughtered.

As professor Pappé has written: "...What we found challenged most of this mythology. First of all, we found out that the Zionist leadership, the Israeli leadership, regardless of the peace plans of the United Nations, contemplated long before 1948 the dispossession of the Palestinians, the expulsion of the Palestinians. So it was not that as a result of the war that the Palestinians lost their homes. It was as a result of a Jewish, Zionist, Israeli – call it what you want – plan

that Palestine was ethnically cleansed in 1948 of its original indigenous population."

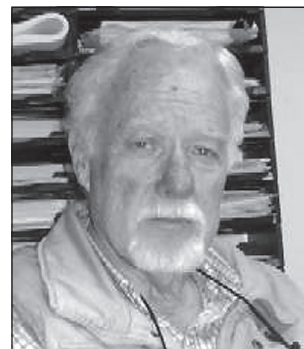
Pappé notes, for example, how David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, met with leading Zionists and young Jewish military officers on March 10, 1948, to finalize plans for an ethnic cleansing of Palestinians that was carried out in the months that followed.

In recent years other Israeli historians have produced books that debunk the popular "David and Goliath" portrayal of the Israel-Arab "Six Day War" of June 1967. One of the most important of these is a new book by Tom Segev, *1967: Israel, the War and the Year that Transformed the Middle East*.

Bradley Smith Presents Revisionist Film at Mexico Film Festival

Bradley Smith, director of the Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust (CODOH), presented a Holocaust revisionist film, "The Great Taboo," at the "Corto Creativo 07" film festival in northern Mexico, June 7-9. The first 32-minute cut of the film was shown to an appreciative audience of

some 200 persons at the festival, an annual event sponsored by a Mexican university. The film features Germar Rudolf, Ernst Zundel, and Smith discussing revisionist theory, free speech, Zionism, 9/11, and other topics. Smith, a revisionist writer and veteran activist, called this presentation "an unprecedented step forward for the Holocaust revisionist movement."



Benny Morris

book, *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-1949*, he demolished a cherished Israeli notion: that the three-quarters of a million Palestinian Arabs who fled their vil-

What Does 'Holocaust Denial' Really Mean?

Daniel McGowan

Professor Emeritus, Hobart and William Smith Colleges (Geneva, New York)

March 2007

The Holocaust (spelled with a capital H) usually refers to the killing of six million Jews by the Nazis during World War II. It is supposed to be the Germans' "Final Solution" to the Jewish problem. Much of the systematic extermination was to have taken place in concentration camps by shooting, gassing, and burning alive innocent victims of the Third Reich.

Germar Rudolf, Ernst Zundel, Robert Faurisson, and others who do not believe this account, and who dare to say so in public, are reviled as bigots, anti-Semites, racists, and worse. Their alternate historical scenarios are not termed simply revisionist, but are demeaned as Holocaust denial.

Politicians pandering to the Jewish or Christian Zionist vote label Holocaust revisionist papers and conferences "beyond the pale of international discourse and acceptable behavior." Non-Zionist Jews, like Rabbi Dovid Weiss of the Neturei Karta, are denounced as "self-haters" and are shunned and spat upon. Even Professor Norman Finkelstein, whose parents were both Holocaust survivors and who wrote the book, *The Holocaust Industry*, has been branded a Holocaust denier.

But putting aside the virile hate directed against those who question the veracity of the typical Holocaust narrative, what is it that these people believe and say at the risk of imprisonment and bodily harm? For most Holocaust revisionists, or deniers if you prefer, their arguments boil down to these three simple contentions:

1. Hitler's "Final Solution" was

intended to be ethnic cleansing, not extermination.

2. There were no homicidal gas chambers used by the Third Reich.

3. There were fewer than six million Jews killed of the alleged 55 million who died in World War II.

Are these revisionist contentions so odious as to cause those who believe them to be reviled, beaten, and imprisoned? More importantly, is it possible that revisionist contentions are true, or even partially true, and that they are despised because they contradict the story of the Holocaust, a story which has been elevated to the level of a religion in hundreds of films, memorials, museums, and docu-dramas?

Is it sacrilegious to ask, "If Hitler was intent on extermination, how did Elie Wiesel, his father, and two of his sisters survive the worst period of incarceration at Auschwitz?" Wiesel claims that people were thrown alive into burning pits, yet even the Israeli-trained guides at Auschwitz do not make this claim.

Is it really "beyond international discourse" to question the efficacy and the forensic evidence of homicidal gas chambers? If other myths, like making soap from human fat, have been dismissed as Allied war propaganda, why is it "unacceptable behavior" to ask if the gas chamber at Dachau was not reconstructed by the Americans because no other homicidal gas chamber could be found and used as evidence at the Nuremberg trials?

For more than fifty years Jewish scholars have spent hundreds of millions of dollars to document each Jewish victim of the Nazi Holocaust. The Nazis were German, obsessed with record keeping.

Yet only three million names have been collected, and many of them died of natural causes. So why is it so wrong to doubt that fewer than six

million Jews were murdered in the Second World War?

"Holocaust Denial" might be no more eccentric or no more criminal than claiming the earth is flat, except that the Holocaust itself has been used as the sword and shield in the quest to build a Jewish state between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River, where even today over half the population is not Jewish.

The Holocaust narrative makes Jews the ultimate victim no matter how they dispossess or dehumanize or ethnically cleanse the indigenous Palestinian people. The Holocaust narrative allows Yad Vashem, the finest Holocaust museum in the world, to repeat the mantra of "Never Forget" while it sits on Arab lands stolen from Ein Karem and overlooking the unmarked graves of Palestinians massacred by Jewish terrorists at Deir Yassin. The Holocaust story eliminates any comparison of Ketzioth or Gaza to the concentration camps they indeed are.

The Holocaust is used to silence critics of Israel in what Jewish scholar Marc Ellis has called the ecumenical deal: you Christians look the other way while we bludgeon the Palestinians and build our Jewish state and we won't remind you that Hitler was a good Catholic long before he was a good Nazi.

The Holocaust narrative of systematic, industrialized extermination has also been an important tool to drive the United States into Iraq and now into Iran. The title of the recent Israeli conference at Yad Vashem made this crystal clear: "Holocaust Denial: Paving the Way to Genocide."

"Remember the Holocaust" will be the battle cry of the next great clash of good (Judeo/Christian values) and evil (radical Islamic aggression) and those who question it must be demonized, if not burned at the stake.

Our Urgent Task in a Time of Historic Challenge

Mark Weber

Excerpts from an address at the IHR meeting in Irvine, California, on March 24, 2007.

The focus of the Walt-Mearsheimer paper, mentioned earlier [“The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy,” by Stephen Walt and John Mearsheimer], is, appropriately, the role of the Israel lobby in determining US policy in the Middle East. But this is no ordinary lobby. Its power and influence is much greater, more insidious, and more dangerous, than that of any other lobby. Far beyond determining US policy in the Middle East, it has a profound impact on every aspect of American social, political and cultural life. That’s one reason why, instead of talking about the “Israel Lobby,” I routinely speak instead of Jewish-Zionist power.

The Walt-Mearsheimer paper is much more than a trenchant analysis or persuasive critique of a particular lobby. It is implicitly a damning indictment of the American social-political system. The Jewish-Zionist grip on our nation is an expression of a profound and deeply rooted problem. Such a lobby or power – particularly one that represents the interests of a self-absorbed community that makes up no more than three or four percent of the population – could only gain such a hold on the governmental machinery of a society that is fundamentally sick and corrupt. No healthy society would permit a small minority to gain and hold such power, and wield it for its own particular interests.

The failure of virtually the entire American political and intellectual establishment to challenge this power is an expression of deep-rooted cowardice and corruption. Cowardice and corruption on such a scale is possible only in a society that is gravely ill –



Stephen Walt

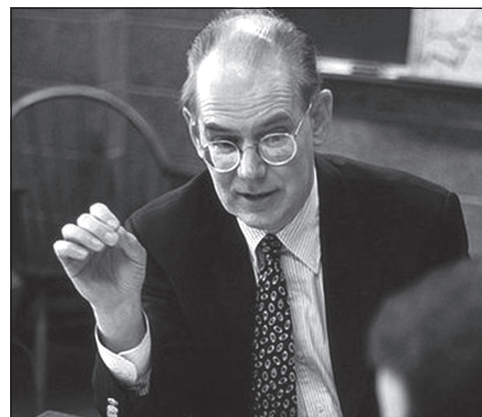
one that is beyond reform or redemption. This sickness is manifest not merely in the hijacking of our foreign policy, or in the corruption of our political system, but also in the squalor of our inner cities, in our nation’s high level of crime, in a culture that is ever more infantile and crass, and in the spreading vulgarity of our social life.

In every society, it is quite normal that most people are concerned with little more than the happiness, interests and well-being of themselves, their families, and their friends. In any society, only a small number of men and women have the wit and awareness to understand the social, political and cultural forces that shape the present and the future. Only a small minority has the soul or temperament to care about, and be seriously concerned for, the long-term health and well-being of the world, or even of their country.

Normally, and understandably, we expect – and have every right to expect – that our political leaders are mindful of and planning for the long-term interests of the nation. Tragically, our leaders have proven themselves grossly derelict. With very few exceptions, our political leaders – Republican and Democrat, conservative and liberal – show far more concern for their own welfare and for the outcome of the next election, than for the long-term interests of our people and

the world.

We seek to raise public awareness of the great issues that confront us, that impact every aspect of our lives, and which have the most profound consequences for the future. We realize, of course, that our words will reach the minds and hearts of only a few. We know that we cannot hope to match the financial resources, influence and outreach of our adversaries. We cannot hope to compete, much less offset, the great power and influence of the media giants who control most of what we read, hear and view.



John Mearsheimer

Our great task is to reach those who, first, think about the present and the past, and second, who care about our future. That is, we work to reach men and women, especially younger men and women, of unusual awareness and a higher sense of responsibility – the men and women who will be the leaders of the future, who can, and, if our children and grandchildren are to live in a decent world, must assume power, replacing the failed leaders who have betrayed the people’s trust.

A few of those who are here this evening have come, perhaps, out of simple curiosity, or to meet others who are attending. But most of us are here this evening because we care. We care about what is right and wrong. We care about what is true

and not true.

We care about the past and, more importantly, we care about the future. We care about the world we live in. We feel a sense of responsibility for the world we've inherited, and for the world of the future. We want to make a difference – to make this a better world – a world that, even beyond our own lifetimes, is more just and right.

Regardless of the particular causes or principles that most move us, that are closest to our hearts, no issue is of greater urgency than breaking the Jewish-Zionist grip on American political, social and cultural life. As long as that power remains entrenched, there will be no end to the systematic Jewish-Zionist distortion of history and current affairs, the Jewish-Zionist corruption and domination of the US political system, Zionist oppression of Palestinians, the bloody conflict between Jews and non-Jews in the Middle East, and the Israeli threat to peace.

We are engaged in a great, global struggle – in which two distinct and irreconcilable sides confront each other. A world struggle that pits an arrogant and malevolent power that feels ordained to rule over others, on one side, and all other nations and societies – indeed, humanity itself – on the other.

This struggle is not a new one. It is the latest enactment of a great drama that has played itself out again and again, over centuries, and in many different societies, cultures and historical eras. In the past this drama played itself out on a local, national, regional, or, sometimes, continental stage. Today this is a global drama, and a global clash.

It is a struggle for the welfare and future not merely of the Middle East, or of America, but a great historical battle for the soul and future of humanity itself. A struggle that calls all of us – across the country and around the world – who share a sense of responsibility for the future of our nation, of the world, and of humankind.

The High Cost of US Subservience to Israel

Paul Findley

This essay by Findley, author of several books and a former US Congressman from Illinois, was published in the State Journal-Register of Springfield, Illinois, June 6, 2007, under the headline "U.S. has paid a huge price for subservience to Israel."



In the greatest service of his long public life, former President Jimmy Carter warns of the grave consequences of America's phenomenal subservience to Israel. In his latest book and recent lectures, he focuses on how Israel's cruel occupation, made possible by massive and unconditional U.S. support, has subjected the Palestinian people to terrible suffering for 40 long years.

Beyond that grave human tragedy, candid observers must cite U.S. complicity in Israeli lawlessness as the major factor that prompted the horror of 9/11 and lured America into launching three costly, wrong-headed and failing wars – Afghanistan, Iraq and the war on terror.

The linkage is easily identified.

America's support of Israel's brutality was the main motivation for 9/11. Nine-eleven would not have happened if any U.S. president in the last 40 years had refused to finance Israel's humiliation and destruction of Palestine. Michael Scheuer, a former

CIA analyst now a consultant to CBS News, recently told a congressional committee that "our unqualified support of Israel" was the main reason for 9/11. Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni, President George W. Bush's first special envoy to the Middle East, has stated that the United States invaded Iraq for Israel and oil.

The U.S. acts of war in Afghanistan and the war on terror were President Bush's retaliation for 9/11. Israel – and only Israel – urged the United States to invade Iraq. Israel's lobby in Washington pushed hard and prevailed.

Despite this grim record, U.S. subservience to the wishes of Israel's leaders does not change. Israel is the only nation urging the United States to attack Iran. The lobby is pushing hard again. If the United States assaults Iran it will be on Israel's behalf.

Congress, like the rest of America, is totally devoid of debate on the amazing role of this small nation in critical U.S. policy. Members are fulsome in public praise of the Jewish state, but no politician mentions the illegal behavior of Israel or the staggering burden it imposes on our country.

How did Israel gain this influence?

It all started 40 years ago. On June 8, 1967, the U.S. commander in chief, President Lyndon B. Johnson, turned his back on the crew of a U.S. Navy ship, the USS Liberty, despite the fact that the ship was under deadly assault by Israel's air and sea forces. The Israelis were engaged in an ugly scheme to lure America into their war against Arab states. They tried to destroy the Liberty and its entire crew, then pin the blame on the Arabs. This, they reasoned, would outrage the American people and immediately lead the United States to join Israel's battle against Arabs.

The scheme almost worked. It failed because, despite the carefully



planned multipronged assault, the Liberty crew managed to broadcast an SOS over a makeshift antenna. When the appeal reached U.S. aircraft carriers nearby, the commanders immediately launched fighter planes to defend the ship. Informed of the launch, President Johnson ordered the rescue planes to turn back immediately.

For the first time in history, forces of the U.S. Navy were denied the right to defend a Navy ship under attack. Johnson said, "I don't care if the ship sinks, I am not going to embarrass an ally." Those were his exact words, heard by Navy personnel listening to radio relays.

The ally Johnson refused to embarrass was Israel. When the SOS reached the top military commanders in Israel, they immediately canceled the assault, claiming it was a case of mistaken identity. At the White House, Johnson accepted Israel's claim, even though he knew it was a lie. Then Johnson magnified the day's infamy by ordering a coverup of the truth. Liberty survivors were sworn to secrecy. Even those in hospital beds and badly wounded were threatened with court martial if they told anyone what actually happened. The coverup has been continued by every administration since Johnson's.

It proved to be a fateful turning point in Israel's power over U.S. foreign policy. The Liberty experience convinced Israeli officials that they could get by with literally anything

— even the murder of U.S. sailors — in their manipulation of the U.S. government. Financial aid to Israel began to pour like a river, all of it with no strings attached. According to *The Christian Science Monitor*, this outpouring has now cost U.S. taxpayers more than \$1.4 trillion.

Costs go far beyond money. Thousands of American families are blighted forever, with America's once high moral standing in shambles. Because of its unqualified support of Israel, Washington is hated worldwide as never before.

The principal source of Israel's influence is the fear it seems to instill in every sector of our society. The most effective instrument of intimidation employed by its lobby is the reckless accusation of anti-Semitism, often leveled at anyone criticizing any aspect of Israeli behavior. I can personally certify that for many years it has cast a blanket of fear over Capitol Hill and blocked any semblance of debate.

I unintentionally contributed to that fear in 1985 when my book, *They Dare to Speak Out: People and Institutions Confront Israel's Lobby*, was published. It reports in detail the efficiency of Israel's U.S. lobby, its history and tactics.

My book became a bestseller. I hoped it would inspire public officials and other citizens to revolt against the lobby's influence on U.S. policy, but several of my former colleagues told me it had the opposite effect. One said, "After what AIPAC did to you and (Charles) Percy, I vote with the lobby every time."

Israel's grip on America seems impervious. Two distinguished political scientists, John Mearshimer of the University of Chicago and Stephen Walt of Harvard, strode reso-

lutely into the Middle East minefield a year ago by co-authoring a paper on Israel's lobby. More recently, *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*, a book written by former President Carter, revered worldwide for his effective work on international conflict resolution, was published.

With few exceptions, America's major editors, producers, commentators, academics and politicians have given these courageous initiatives the silent treatment. Nationwide, the lobby's influence is pervasive, sustained and deep, a phenomenon unprecedented in U.S. history. It is impossible to explain the silence except as a reflection of profound fear.

The situation is highly dangerous. America has already paid a towering price for our subservience to Israel, and great additional burdens seem inevitable. If the United States is involved in acts of war against Iran, anti-American protest will rise to new heights, especially throughout the Islamic world. It will inevitably deepen the widely held belief among Muslims that America seeks to undermine Islam.

The outlook for reform is grim. Elected officials of both major political parties in Washington seem hopelessly captured by Israel's agents. So does every serious candidate for the presidency in 2008. All U.S. citizens must accept a measure of responsibility for Israel's grip on America. Those of us who knew what was happening did not protest with sufficient force and clarity. Those who did not know should have taken their responsibility as citizens more seriously. They should have informed themselves.

The scene is likely to improve only if U.S. elected officials are criticized so forthrightly from home that they fear a constituent revolt more than they fear Israel's lobby. This, of course, will not happen until the countryside benefits from a rigorous and edifying public debate about Israel's role in our national life.